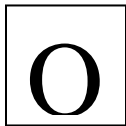


By : Hassan Ali Teepu

BIOGRAPHY
OF HOLY PROPHET HAZRAT
MUHAMMAD
(SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM)

I may rinse my mouth,
a thousand times with musk and Rose-water,
Yet, it would be impudent for me,
to utter thy name (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.)



Our beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM) was a descendant of Prophet Hazrat Ismail (pbuh), he was born on Monday the 20th of August, 570 AD in Makkah. His father, Hazrat Abdullah, died several weeks before his birth. His mother died while she was coming back from Medinah at a place called 'Abwa' when the Holy Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) was only six years old.

Holy Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) was raised by his paternal grandfather Hazrat Abdul Muttalib until the age of eight, and after the death of

his(S)ⁱ grandfather, Hazrat Abu Talib, his(s) paternal uncle started to serve him as his(s) guardian.

Under the guardianship of Abu Talib, Hazrat Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) began to earn his living as a businessman and a trader. At the age of twelve, he (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) accompanied Hazrat Abu Talib with a merchant caravan for the Syria. Hazrat Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) was popularly known as 'al-Ameen' for his unimpeachable character by the Makkans and visitors alike. The title Al-Ameen means the Honest, the Reliable and the Trustworthy,

and it signified the highest standard of moral and public life.

Upon hearing of Hazrat Muhammad's (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) impressive credentials, Hazrat Sayida Khadijah (*Radi Allah Anha*), a rich merchant widow, asked Hazrat Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) to take some merchandise for trade to Syria. Soon after this trip when he (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) was twenty-five, Hazrat Khadijah (*Radi Allah Anha*) proposed marriage to Hazrat Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) through a relative. Holy Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.) accepted the proposal after the consultation with his uncle.

The people of Makkah then accepted Islam including the worst enemies of the Prophet. A few of the worst enemies and military commanders had fled Makkah after his entry. However, when they received the Prophet's assurance of no retaliation and no compulsion in religion, they came back and gradually the message of Islam won their hearts. Within a year (630 CE), almost all Arabia accepted Islam. Among the Prophet's close companions were Muslims from such diverse background as Persia, Abyssinia, Syria and Rome. Several prominent Jewish Rabbis, Christian bishops accepted Islam after discussions with the Prophet(s).

The great change in Arabia alarmed the two superpowers, Byzantines and Persians. Their Governors, particularly the Byzantines, reacted with threats to attack Medinah. Instead of waiting, the Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), sent a small army to defend the border. The Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY

WASALAM.), did not have a standing army. Whenever he received a threat, he called the Muslims and discussed with them the situation and gathered volunteers to fight any aggression.

The Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), performed his first and last pilgrimage in 632CE. One hundred twenty four thousand men and women performed pilgrimage that year with him. The Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), received the last revelation during this pilgrimage. Two months later, Prophet Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), fell ill and after several days he (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), left this world for havens in the holy city of Medinah. **Many authentic Islamic historians have different opinions about the date when the Holy Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), take his last breath. But they agreed upon the month (Rabi-ul-awal).**

Prophet Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), lived a most simple, sober and modest life. He and his family used to go without cooked meal several days at a time, relying only on dates, dried bread and water. During the day he was the busiest man, as he performed his duties in many roles all at once as head of state, chief justice, commander-in-chief, arbitrator, instructor and family man. He was the most devoted man to Allah at night. He used to spend one- to two-thirds of every night in prayer and meditation. **The Prophet's possession consisted of mats, blankets, jugs and other simple things even when he was the virtual ruler of Arabia.**

Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), was a man and a messenger of Allah (The One God). He is the last of the prophets [Qur'an 33:40] sent by Allah to

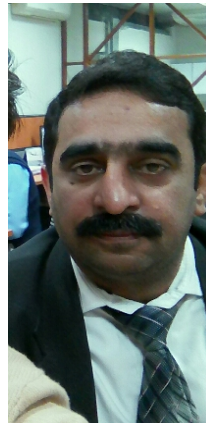
guide the mankind to the right path; Adam was the first Prophet. **The Qur'an mentions twenty-five Prophets by name and provides a great insight of their mission, struggle and their communities.** The Qur'an exonerates prophets from charges levied against them in the previous Scriptures. The Qur'an also mentions four previously revealed Scriptures: Suhoof (Pages) of Ibrahim (Abraham), Taurat ('Torah') as revealed to Prophet Moses, Zuboor ('Psalms') as revealed to Prophet David, and Injeel ('Evangel') as revealed to Prophet Jesus (pbuh). Islam requires belief in all prophets and revealed scriptures (original, non-corrupted) as part of the Articles of Faith. Prophet Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), is greatly respected as the model of Qur'anic behaviour. Muslims mention his name by adding "peace be upon him, (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.)" a phrase used with his name.

All sincere Muslims try to follow the Qur'an and the Prophet's (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), example (Sunnah) to the minute details. The account of every aspect of his life has been preserved (numerous daily accounts including his family life). Prophet Muhammad (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), has served as an example for all Muslims in all periods to modern times. He will remain a model example for all of humanity. At the end of his mission, the Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), was blessed with several hundred thousand followers (men and women) of Islam. Thousands prayed with him at the mosque and listened to his sermon. Hundreds of sincere Muslims would find every opportunity to be with him following five daily prayers and at other times. They used to seek his advice for their everyday

problems, and listened attentively to the interpretation and application of revealed verses to their situation. They followed the message of the Qur'an and the Messenger of Allah with utmost sincerity, and supported him with every thing they had.

The most excellent among them are Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Usman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, 'Abdur Rahman-ibn-Auf, S'ad bin Abi Waqqas, S'ad bin Zaid, Abu 'Ubeidah, Hasan, Hussain, and several dozen others. They faithfully carried the message of Islam after the Prophet (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.), and within ninety years the light of Islam reached Spain, North Africa, the Caucasus, northwest China and India. □

ⁱ (S) Abrev. Of (SAL-LAL-LAHO AALAY-HAY WASALAM.)



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